

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT SHOP (PARACHUTE AND DINGY SHOP)
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2784)
Connecticut Road
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-S

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: Connecticut Road, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York.

UTM: 18.622920.4945060
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1956

Architect/Engineer: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building No. 2784 was built to provide inspection and maintenance service for flight parachute and flotation equipment.

Project Information: Building No. 2784 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

Michael Pumphrey
Deborah Dobson-Brown
Earth Tech, Inc.
1461 East Cooley Drive
Colton, CA 92324

Summary Description of Survival Equipment Shop (Parachute and Dingy Shop) (Building No. 2784)

Layout

Building No. 2784 is an 8,516 square foot, one-story, concrete block building with a reinforced concrete tower. This building has a T-shaped plan, and the main section has a flat roof. The building measures 51'-6" x 127'-6". The section's east and west facades have a band of one-over-one, wood sash, awning-style windows near the roofline. To the west of this section is a reinforced concrete tower measuring 62'-0" x 30'-0". This tower has no fenestration and is clad in vertical metal siding above the first floor level. The tower is roughly eight stories tall.

The interior of the main section houses offices arranged off a double loaded corridor. The interior of the tower is open and was used to hang parachutes.

Alterations/Additions

The metal siding on the tower section was added circa 1984. Otherwise, there have been no major additions or alterations to the building.

Function

Building No. 2784 provided space to perform work on parachutes and flotation equipment. The flotation equipment included life rafts and preservers carried in aircraft that may be engaged in overwater flights. Because flotation equipment must be periodically inspected, survival items and accessories were concurrently inspected. The shop also contained a parachute inspection and packing room; a parachute washing room and parachute drying tower; a sewing room with space for repair and manufacture of fabric, canvas, leather, rubber, survival equipment, and rubberized products; storage areas for survival and flotation equipment; and inspection and storage rooms for survival items and accessories.

Significance

Flotation devices and parachutes were support items vital to the Strategic Air Command (SAC) flight mission. As such, facilities to inspect and maintain such items were necessary. Building No. 2784 is a common building type at most Air Force Installations that support flight operations, and as such it was critical to the Plattsburgh AFB mission.

Sources

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SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT SHOP (PARACHUTE AND DINGY SHOP)
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2784)
HAER No. NY-326-S
(Page 3)

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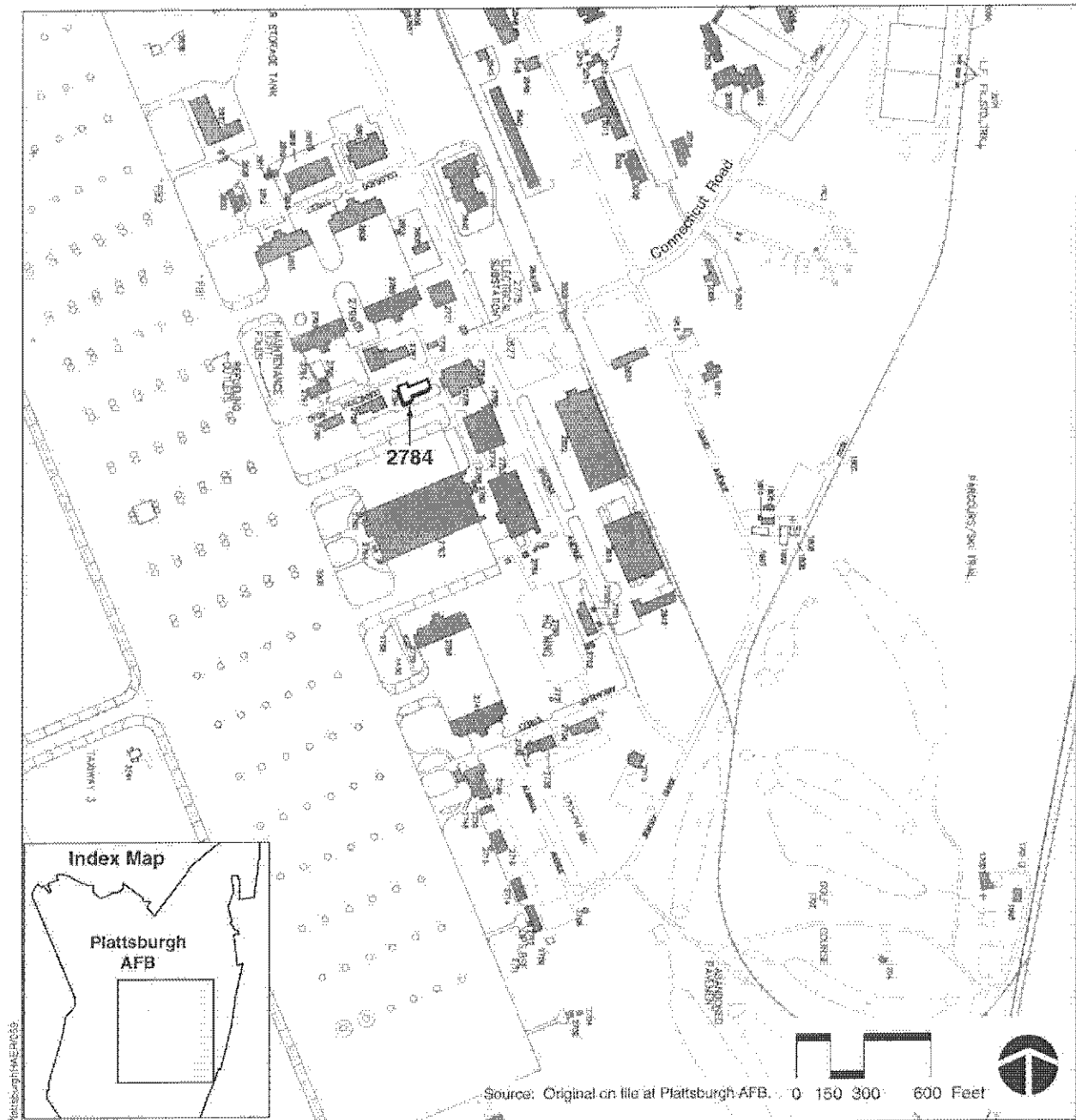
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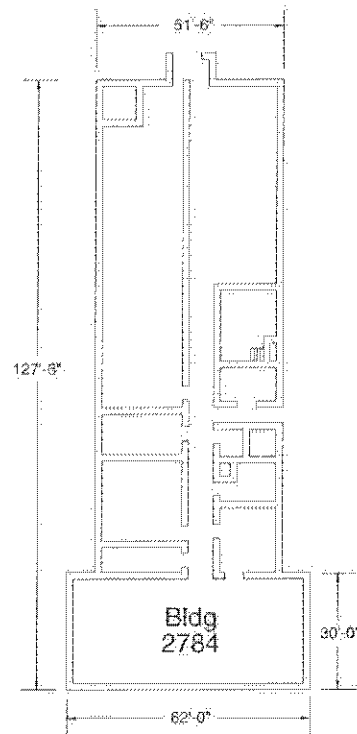
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SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT SHOP (PARACHUTE AND DINGY SHOP)
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HAER No. NY-326-S
(Page 4)



Location Map for Survival Equipment Shop, Building No. 2784
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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
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(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2784)
HAER No. NY-326-S
(Page 5)



Sketch not to Scale

SKETCH PLAN—SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT SHOP
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2784)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
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